

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/748,510

Examiner

James Alpert

Applicant(s)

PITTROFF, FREDERICK L.

Art Unit

3693

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's amendment dated 15 September 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11, 14 and 17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

The following communication is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on 15 September 2006.

Status of Claims

Claims 11 and 17 are currently amended. Claim 14 is previously presented. Claims 1-10, 12-13, and 15-16 are cancelled. Claims 11,14, and 17 are currently pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11,14, and 17 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The closest prior art of record is Jaros et al, U.S. Patent 6,877,656. Jaros discloses a method and apparatus for instantly issuing a credit card using a central computing platform and remote dispensing devices. However, Jaros lacks several meaningful features, that serve to distinguish the instant application from the prior art. Initially, Jaros is expressly directed to credit cards only, with no provision for ATM, debit/check cards, or other identification cards. Further, this lack of a plurality of types of card is instrumental in another key feature of the current application: an evaluation and placement step that is based on criteria related to card type and geographic location of a card issuance request. Specifically Jaros fails to teach evaluating a card issuance request, based on geographic location and card type, in order to determine whether the request should be processed immediately or queued for later production.

The Examiner attempted to supply these missing limitations through a secondary reference, Lenz et al, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0236473. Lenz discloses an identification card personalization device and system that comprises steps for tracking progression of card production requests, as well as monitoring job status of remote card production devices indicating availability of a device for card processing. In addition, Lenz discloses a spooling/queuing function for card production requests. However, as pointed out by Applicant in his most recent remarks, Lenz does not relate the spooling function to the monitoring function, in that no criteria is set forth about how the data is spooled, let alone that the spooling be based on card type and geographic location.

Please take note of the following examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 11 is allowed because the best prior art of record, Jaros, alone or in combination with Lenz, neither discloses nor fairly suggests the limitations, in a method for producing identification cards of a plurality of card types using a plurality of card issuance machines that are located in a plurality of locations, wherein the card issuance machines are communicably coupled to an enterprise server through an enterprise network, comprising:

evaluating a rule set and placing the request into one of a card issuance component queue where cards are ready for immediate production and a production queue for later production based on the evaluation, wherein the rule set includes card type criteria and geographic location criteria, and further comprising linking said request based at least in part on the requested card type and a geographic location where the request originated to one of the card issuance component queue and the production queue;

forwarding said request from said card issuance component queue to a card issuance controller process coupled to the plurality of card issuance machines for production of the identification card;

Claim 14 is similarly allowed, as it is dependent on Claim 11.

Claim 17 is allowed because Jaros, alone or in combination with Lenz, neither discloses nor fairly suggests the limitations, in method for producing identification cards using card issuance machines which are located at a variety of separate locations, the comprising:

at the enterprise server system, evaluating the request, including the card type and a geographic location where the request originated, to determine where and when the request to produce the identification card can be fulfilled, wherein the determination further includes evaluating a geographic location where card issuance machines are located and available for producing the identification card;

if the evaluation indicates that the card is ready for immediate production, placing the request into a card issuance type queue for immediate production of the card using one of the card issuance machines;

if the evaluation indicates that the card is not ready for immediate production, placing the request into a production type queue for later processing;

Conclusion

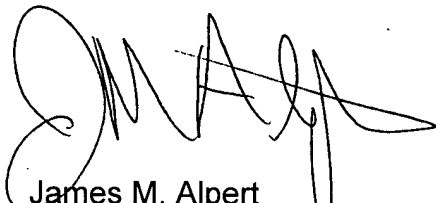
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Alpert whose telephone number is (571) 272-6738. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:00-5:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammel, can be reached on (571) 272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.


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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197. Respectfully,



James M. Alpert
November 27, 2006



ELLA COLBERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER